

With the aid of a motorcycle one was able to move around, but a near catastrophe parking it in one ride was the discovery on returning to find it on its side, with precious petrol leaking out! On another occasion a bit of bracken caught a *paphia* var. *ocellata* as it was being netted (my stupidity and excited carelessness), chipped out a small fragment of wing, which took ten minutes of search over a six inch square of grass to discover! So ended two memorable trips with a satisfying result!

Bug-hunting is a fascinating hobby, though the years of plenty recede behind us, nor does the future look promising. Nevertheless the delight and recreation of walking the woods and downs and capturing some of the beauty and expanse of nature, even though the capture of our quarry is now of much rarer occurrence, is a thing of joy for which we can always be thankful.

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GAINSBOROUGH'S MISTAKE. — I went recently to the Gainsborough exhibition at the Tate Gallery and was much interested to see picture no. 22 . . . Gainsborough's young family chasing a butterfly. We have caught out the painter in this, however, for he has depicted a *dead* female *Pieris brassicae* L., and moreover he has killed his model by pinching! The butterfly is upside down with the upperside partly showing. I have written to the gallery and I hope they do not find any more models in rigor mortis! — Canon P. C. HAWKER, St. Botolph's Vicarage, Lincoln LN5 8EW.

RHYACIA SIMULANS HUFN. AND OTHER INTERESTING LEPIDOPTERA AT A NORTH WARWICKSHIRE SITE. — Regular trapping using a 6W 9V actinic lamp at Woodlands Quarry, Hartshill, near Nuneaton has produced several records of *Rhyacia simulans* Hufn. These are: 1978: 12th August, one; 13th August, one; 19th August, one; 4th September, three; 6th September, one. 1980: 13th August, one; 15th August, one.

Woodlands Quarry, and SSSI on account of the rare Lyolithid fossils found within a limestone band, also produces frequent records of *Gnophos obscuratus* D. & S., *Larentia clavaria* Haw. and *Eremobia ochroleuca* D. & S. *Spaelotis raveda* D. & S. has occurred, with one trapped on 13th September 1980.

The adjacent Hartshill, Hayes, a predominantly sessile oak wood with a wide variety of other trees and shrubs, including much small-leaved lime and occasional wild service tree, also contains much of interest. *Abraxas sylvata* Scop. is still present in some numbers despite the ravages of Dutch elm disease. *Bena prasinana* L. and *Drymonia ruficornis* Hufn. are occasionally trapped and *Cosmia pyralina* D. & S. came to light in August 1977. A survey of Macro-lepidoptera carried out at Hartshill by the writer over the past four years has shown that over 250 species occur. — R. J. THOMAS, 23, Trentham Road, Hartshill, Nuneaton, Warwicks.